

I claim:

1. A thermoelastic actuator assembly including:  
a heat conductor positioned to conduct heat generated by a heating element away from said actuator assembly thereby facilitating the return of the actuator to a quiescent state subsequent to operation.
2. A thermoelastic actuator assembly according to claim 1, wherein the heating element comprises a heating layer, the heating layer bonded to a passive bend layer and wherein the heat conductor is located within the passive bend layer.
3. A thermoelastic actuator according to claim 2, wherein the heat conductor comprises one or more layers of a metallic heat conductive material located within the passive bend layer.
4. A thermoelastic actuator according to claim 3, wherein the one or more layers of metallic heat conductive material is sufficient to prevent overheating of ink in contact with said actuator.
5. A thermoelastic actuator according to claim 3, wherein the one or more layers of metallic heat conductive material comprise a laminate of heat conductive material and passive bend layer substrate.
6. A thermoelastic actuator according to claim 5, wherein the one or more layers of metallic heat conductive material comprise Aluminium.
7. An ink jet printer including a thermoelastic actuator according to claim 3.